IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Summary of Invention section on page 5, line 2 through page 6, line 1 with the following amended section:

-- The present invention has been made in consideration of the above situation and has as its object to provide an image processing apparatus/method capable of detecting an object (e.g., an object of a predetermined size or an object within a predetermined distance range from a predetermined object) desired by a user from input image data.

To achieve the above object, according to one preferred embodiment of the present invention, an image processing apparatus/method is characterized by inputting image data, detecting an object in the input image data, measuring the distance from the detected object to a predetermined position, and detecting a predetermined object on the basis of the measurement result inputting image data; receiving information of a size of an object or a distance to the object, for detecting a desired object from an external apparatus, via a communication interface; detecting that the desired object exists in a predetermined range, on the basis of the information received in the receiving step from the image data; and transmitting information corresponding to a detection result of the detection unit to the external apparatus via the communication interface in a case that the detection step detects that the desired object exists in the predetermined range.

According to another preferred embodiment, there is provided [[an]] <u>a image</u> processing <u>terminal</u> apparatus/method characterized by <u>inputting image data by image pickup</u> means having an optical system, detecting an object in the input image data, controlling the

optical system of the image pickup means, and detecting a predetermined object on the basis of the object detection result and the optical system control result. inputting image data; receiving information of a size of an object or a distance to the object, for detecting a desired object, from an external apparatus via a communication interface; detecting that the desired object exists in a predetermined range, on the basis of the information received in the receiving step from the image data; and transmitting information corresponding to a detection result of the detecting step to another external apparatus via said communication interface, in a case that the detecting step detects that the desired object exists in the predetermined range.

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.--